

Serial No. 09/741,216

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently Amended) In a solvent distiller for recovery of purified solvent from impure solvent, the impure solvent containing residues of paint, the distiller comprising an outer container defining a boiling chamber, the outer container including an opening, a cover closing the opening, a flexible inner container located in the boiling chamber and containing impure solvent to be distilled, the flexible inner container being made of a flexible material, the flexible inner container and the outer container defining a lower space within the boiling chamber, the cover, the flexible inner container and the outer container defining an upper space located above the impure solvent, and a heating device for heating the impure solvent in the flexible inner container to cause the impure solvent to boil and to generate solvent steam in the upper space, the upper space having at least one outlet for directing the solvent steam from the upper space, and a condensing device for receiving the solvent steam from the at least one outlet and for condensing the solvent steam to form purified liquid solvent, wherein the improvement comprises:

means located between the flexible inner container and an inner surface of the outer container and extending from

-2-

Serial No. 09/741,216

the lower space to the upper space for preventing solvent steam, generated by heated solvent trapped in the lower space, from lifting the flexible inner container in the boiling chamber ~~for by transporting the solvent steam from the lower space to the upper space and to the at least one outlet and for preventing the solvent steam generated in the lower space from lifting the flexible inner container in the boiling chamber, the solvent steam being generated by heated solvent trapped in the lower space,~~

said means comprising a pipe having an inlet spaced apart from the bottom of the boiling chamber located inside the outer container defining the boiling chamber.

Claim 3 (previously presented) The solvent distiller according to claim 2 wherein the flexible inner container is fastened to an inner wall of the outer container by a retaining ring, the retaining ring including an inwardly directed part for allowing passage of the pipe means through the retaining ring from the lower space to the upper space.

Claims 4-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended) The solvent distiller according to claim 2 wherein ~~the pipe has an inlet spaced apart from a bottom of the outer container,~~ the inlet being ~~is~~ the first terminal end of the pipe, the first terminal end of the pipe being a free terminal end.

Serial No. 09/741,216

Claim 8 (previously presented) The solvent distiller according to claim 7 wherein the pipe has a second terminal end which is a free terminal end.

Claim 9 (currently Amended) In a solvent distiller for recovery of purified solvent from impure solvent, the impure solvent containing residues of paint, the distiller comprising an outer container defining a boiling chamber, the outer container including an opening, a cover closing the opening, a flexible inner container located in the boiling chamber and containing impure solvent to be distilled, the flexible inner container being made of a flexible material, the flexible inner container and the outer container defining a lower space within the boiling chamber, the cover, the flexible inner container and the outer container defining an upper space located above the impure solvent, and a heating device for heating the impure solvent in the flexible inner container to cause the impure solvent to boil and to generate solvent steam in the upper space, the upper space having at least one outlet for directing the solvent steam from the upper space, and a condensing device for receiving the solvent steam from the at least one outlet and for condensing the solvent steam to form purified liquid solvent, wherein the improvement comprises:

a pipe means located between the flexible inner container and the outer container and extending from the lower space to the upper space for transporting solvent steam from the lower space to the upper space and to the at least one outlet to prevent the solvent steam ~~pressure~~ generated in the

Serial No. 09/741,216

lower space from lifting of the flexible inner container in the boiling chamber, the solvent steam being generated by heated solvent trapped in the lower space, the pipe means having an inlet spaced apart from a bottom of the outer container,

the pipe means comprises an elongated profile with holes attached to the outer container between the outer container and the flexible inner container, the profile and the outer container defining a passageway for transporting the solvent steam, generated by heating impure solvent trapped in the lower space, from the lower space to the upper space.

Claim 10 (previously presented) The solvent distiller according to claim 9 wherein the elongated profile of the pipe means is V-shaped.